

Dear BLM Personnel:

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At the 'new proposal' meeting in Medford, Oregon in Sept, five purported experts stood in front of a group of constituents and tried to sell us on the idea of clear cutting the mountains surrounding our properties and developing trails for ORV (off road vehicles) whose owners would have to drive to our area, park on our gravel roads while kicking up dust (as if there's not enough to smother the trees already), park where there's no parking and then make noise all day. Did I mention the litter factor?

But let's talk about clear cutting first, or as one BLM expert told us that an alternative is 'reseeding' an acre which would mean leaving 6 trees. SIX trees? I guess the only way to get closer to clear cutting would be to chop down five of the remaining six.

I asked them if they'd read Collapse, by Jared Diamond which not only was on the best seller list for almost a year in hardback, but explains in simple to understand language what the destruction to our forests means to the environment as a total picture: warmer temperatures, animal habitat destruction, climate control as relating to extremes in weather (see Katrina), fouling of waters both public and private (we're all on wells), loss of recreation lands etc, etc, etc.

I live in Oregon to claim peace of mind. Oregon is rich for retirees. Almost all of my neighbors live on Griffin Lane to enjoy the peacefulness and sounds of the forest. We hike, horseback ride and enjoy the wildlife. DESTROYING THIS WOULD BE CRIMINAL.

Under the new BLM proposals the BLM will no longer be protecting endangered species. This agency will be able to clear cut old growth, some older than our nation, all in the name of 'management'.

There are many alternatives to these plans: The first is to return our forests to the Forestry Service. The second is to thin the 'plantations', those 'reforested' areas after clear cutting. The third (and my personal favorite) is to abolish this 'management' agency which is not needed any more.

The Oregon economy is not based on timber anymore. Recreation and retirees have surpassed the timber industry. Popular sentiment is on the side of the land. Conservation is one of the hottest topics everywhere. People want to conserve, restore and save our environment. It is your duty as an elected official to listen and act.

Respectfully,

Meyera Robbins

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